

## CITY CONNECTION—MAR 2018

### Shoveling A Path To Somewhere

by Peter O'Leary, Fire Chief



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I was asked to write a cover story for the City Connection I couldn't wait to get started. Over the past nine years I have seen so many moments that made me proud to work for the City of Fond du Lac. One moment in particular didn't have anything to do with the fire department at all and for the most part, the story, although it made national television primetime news, went unnoticed, but not by me. I watch the news; local and national news. Most of the time it's by scanning social media feeds, clicking on a story I like and then reading or watching the detailed story. Rewind back to March 6, 2015 and the CBS Evening News I found Steve Hartman's weekly segment, On The Road and that's when I discovered this proud moment that happened at Lakeside Park. The story headline, Strangers clear snow so elderly man can reach wife's memorial. I was immediately hooked and when the story began describing Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac, WI I

was glued to the television. For the next several minutes viewers like me across the world were introduced to Fond du Lac City Park workers Jerrod Ebert and Kevin Schultz who saw one of our elderly residents make his way through a snow covered sidewalk towards a park bench (he had bought to honor his late wife). The guys saw that the stretch of sidewalk that the gentleman would navigate to visit the bench was not normally shoveled and it often kept Bud Caldwell from getting all the way to the bench. Enter Jerrod and Kevin who made it part of their mission to shovel the sidewalk after each snowfall so Bud could drop off a "Daisy a day" for his late wife Betty. When Bud was interviewed, he told Steve Hartman, "One day I pulled up there and there's the walk shoveled. My knees about buckled on me." After watching the story I could not think of a better way to show one's humanity than by that simple act of kindness shown by Jerrod and

Kevin. What a great lesson for all of us! The humility by these two selfless city workers summed it up when they said they were just doing their job, but I would argue they were doing more and showing us all what selfless dedication and commitment looks like.

I remembered sending the story out to everyone I could—I was so proud to be associated with such compassionate, yet humble co-workers like Jerrod and Kevin. As public employees we have a unique opportunity to perform acts of kindness for the people we serve. I think about how Jerrod and Steve took it upon themselves, without having to seek approval, to do the right thing. Empowerment is an ingredient for successful leaders and this story is certainly proof that when given, it works. I encourage us all to learn from them and get out there and do good things. Here is the link to the story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/strangers-clear-snow-so-elderly-man-can-reach-wifes-memorial/>

## FDL Police Detective Harbridge Honored With Proclamation



years as  
a member  
of the Hon-  
or  
Guard

Fond du Lac Police Detective Jeff Harbridge was honored with a proclamation by the Fond du Lac City Council this week. He retired on February 2nd after nearly 28 years with the department. He had a number of roles with the department including 10 years as a SWAT team member and 26

Team. Harbridge told the Council he wouldn't want to do any other job, he likes being a police officer. He said, "I just appreciate my co-workers being here, the City for recognizing my service. It has really been an honor." Harbridge also served as the family liaison officer to the Birkholz family when

Officer Craig Birkholz was shot and killed during a standoff in March of 2011. Assistant Police Chief Steve Klein says Harbridge's ability to get along with people has served him well. Klein said, "One of the things I always admire about you Jeff is your ability to connect with people and build relationships and to help the people you come into contact with." Harbridge was presented with a copy of the proclamation and a key to the City.



## Fire/Rescue News



### FDL Fire Lieutenant Todd Shippee was Honored for Retirement

It's a bit ironic that a guy who spent 32 years and 3 months responding to fires, car accidents and rescue calls for the City of Fond du Lac was nervous about receiving a proclamation from the City Council honoring him on his retirement. Lieutenant Todd Shippee shared with Council President Karyn Merkel before he got the proclamation he was nervous and she said she was nervous about it too. Shippee told the gathering, which included a number of firefighters in the back of the room, that it was an honor to serve the City. Shippee said he has loved the job since being hired in 1985, and would have swam across Lake Michigan to get here. He also feels the spirit of cooperation to make the community safe is at its

highest level ever and Fond du Lac is well prepared for any disaster that might come its way. He says that's due to the support of the City Council, City staff, and the spirit of cooperation between the chiefs and all the firefighters. He also talked about how important the support of family is when they come off the job having seen some of life's worst. Shippee says its their wives and family that pick them back up and put them back in the game.

### Andrew Aird Promoted to FDL Fire Dept Lieutenant

Fond du Lac Firefighter Andrew Aird has a new role in the Fire Department. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Division Chief Troy Haase says Aird replaces Lieutenant Todd Shippee who retired from the department last week after 32 years and 3 months serving the City. Aird was also recently elected President of

Fond du Lac Firefighters Local 400 as well. Aird has also been out in front of a number of charitable efforts for Local 400 including Fill the Boot, Child ID kits, and providing sleeping bags to the homeless.

### James Hoepfner Promoted to FDL Fire Dept Engineer

Fond du Lac Firefighter James Hoepfner has a new role in the Fire Department. He was promoted to the rank of Engineer. Jim has completed 20 years of service as a firefighter/paramedic for the department. He was number one in the promotional process and began his new duties as a fire engineer on February 4, 2018. Jim's knowledge and experience will prepare him for this new position. Jim is a very dedicated member of the department - always looking to help with the necessary work around the station and union functions.



# Welcome to the City Team!!



**Adam Stephens—FF/Paramedic**  
Hello,

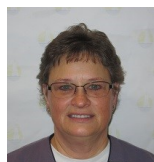
I am the newest addition to the Fond du Lac Fire Rescue Department. I am very excited to learn the City and to expand my knowledge to assist people in our City. I was born and raised in Brookfield, WI and completed my Associate Degree of a Fire Protection Technician in Pewaukee at Waukesha County Technical College. I have also achieved the diploma of Paramedic in my recent past. In addition to the experience I have from working part-time for the Menomonee Falls, Town of Brookfield and Richfield Fire Departments for over 6 years, I look forward to embracing the City and Fire Rescue Department of Fond du Lac for furthering my experience and education. I am very appreciative of this honorable career. I'm looking forward to a long

and successful career in this thriving City!!



**Julie Grossman—Special Clerk Licensing & Records**

I was born and raised here in Fond du Lac. I am married and have 2 children. We enjoy spending time outdoors at home or at our family's land near Neshkoro. I am very involved in 4-H and currently am the secretary of the Fond du Lac Horse and Pony Project. I have had horses my entire life and now enjoy them with my daughter. I'm excited to be part of the City of Fond du Lac's team.



**Teresa Huck—Clerk Cashier**  
My boyfriend and I recently bought a house in the country

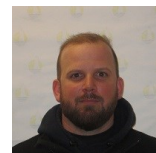
where we both grew up. I have a daughter who lives in Reno, NV. I like bow hunting, sunrises, sunsets, waterfalls, photography, Harley rides,

and most anything I can do outside. I am also proud to have served in the US Army Reserves from 1986–1991.



**Kristen De Jong—Benefits Coordinator**

Hello,  
I'm the new HR Benefits Coordinator for the City of Fond du Lac! I grew up in Freedom, Wisconsin and will soon be making the move here. I come to you with four years of HR experience and will graduate from UW-Green Bay in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Human Resource Management. When I'm not at work, I enjoy playing piano, reading, and spending time with family, friends, and my chocolate lab, Hank. I'm looking forward to settling down in Fond du Lac and learning all about the inner workings of the city!



**Jon Lilyquist—Equipment Operator I**

I previously worked for the Electrical Union, and did a lot of traveling. I accepted this position to learn new things and to be home; spending more time with family and enjoying life. In my spare time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, sports, and just being outdoors. I have played semi-pro football, which is an experience I will never forget. There is a bond created through the game and the teamwork that is fulfilling. I look forward to being a part of the group and helping out the City.



## Master of Public Administration Degree by Lynn Gilles,

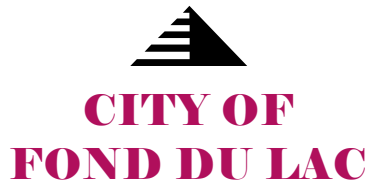
Transit Manager

Congratulations to Joey Kunde from the Transit Division of Public Works. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh with a 4.0 and has acquired her Master of Public Administra-

tion Degree. "Joey is a tremendous team player and asset for the City and continuously finds ways to increase production and efficiency in the Transit office. She is also hardworking, indus-

trious and an innovative thinker." The education she has received will help her grow and develop into one of the future leaders in the City.

City of FDL



We're on the web:  
[www.fdl.wi.gov](http://www.fdl.wi.gov)

### Marriage News

David Brown (Fleet) -  
December



Check out all the covered  
procedures at:  
[https://www.fdl.wi.gov/cof  
uploads/NOVO\\_Information\\_11152017075521.pdf](https://www.fdl.wi.gov/cofuploads/NOVO_Information_11152017075521.pdf)

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## OUR MISSION

Fond du Lac City Government's mission is to pro-  
vide excellent local government through respon-  
siveness and accountability to the citizens of  
Fond du Lac. Our values: Excellence in Service,  
Honesty, Integrity, and Personal Accountability  
guide everything we do.

## Milestone Anniversaries

### 40 Years

Kevin Westphal (C & M)

### 20 Years

Alan Lietz (Parks)

### 15 Years

Ben Colwin (Police)  
Joe Goldapske (Fire)  
Laura Ketelhut (Fire)  
Charles Beckford (Police)

### 10 Years

Michelle Anthes (Police)  
Wayne Schumacher (C & M)



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